Public awareness programme in Himachal Pradesh

†2410. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal regarding "Introduction of Information Technology for Public Awareness in Himachal Pradesh" had been sent to the Additional Director Department of Information and Technology by the Director, Information and Public Relations, Himachal Pradesh *vide* their letter dated the 30th October, 2002 for approval so that the information regarding various markets (mandis) in the country could be provided to the farmers of the State and an awareness could be created amongst general public about Government's Development and welfare programme; and

(b) if so, what further action has been taken thereon and by when, a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Information Technology received a proposal from Government of Himachal Pradesh for "Introduction of Information Technology for Public Awareness in Himachal Pradesh" seeking recommendations for financial assistance under Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) Programme through the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Department of Information Technology gave its recommendations on the above proposal in the month of December 2002 to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Recruitment in TCIL

2411. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of staff recruited in Telecommunications Consultants India Limited after the take over of the present CMD;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether guidelines of the CVC have been followed in Campus recruitment; and

(c) the details regarding above recruitments and how much turn over have increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), a Government of India Public Sector Undertaking, has recruited 79 persons during the period 01.11.2002 to 31.07.2004. Out of the 79 persons recruited during this period, 11 have been already left.

(b) There are no guidelines issued by CVC in this regard. However, the recruitment has been done as per policy of the Company.

(c) The strength of employees and turnover for the last three years is as follows:

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Total strength	1469	1379	1271
Total turnover (in crore)	720	592	642 (provisional)

BSNL's operation in Delhi and Mumbai

2412. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL is keen to operate its services in Delhi and Mumbai Metro Circuits and the MTNL wants to expand its reach beyond Delhi and Mumbai Metro Areas;

(b) if so, whether these proposals, if implemented, would lead to competition between the two State-owned telecom companies to the advantage of private players; and

(c) whether Government would consider merging both BSNL and MTNL to counter the stiff competition posed by private telecom companies, both in Delhi and Mumbai and also all over the country?